



Marden High School

Friday 28th March 2024

Dear All

It is a sense of leadership and agency that people often attribute to our students and currently we are seeing examples of both on a school, local and national level. A group of students from the school Cabinet met last week to begin work on the Plastic Free Schools project that we as a school are conducting alongside Surfers Against Sewage. Seeing sewage pumped into the waters so close to our coastal school is something deeply concerning not only to our current generation but to those in the future and therefore our students are working hard to ensure that their voices are being heard in calling for a review of the current practice by water companies. This work, which includes communication with local government, sits alongside the visit some of our Year 8 students undertook last week to the Young People's Conference where youth democracy and careers education were discussed and explored. This brilliant event, hosted by North Tyneside's youth parliament members and young mayor, will feed into our Personal Development curriculum and Careers work that form part of the school's School Development Plan.

I often refer to the African proverb that it takes a whole village to raise a child. In this spirit, we are informed from time to time about malicious WhatsApp groups that tend to include children from multiple schools, both primary and secondary. These chat groups can include encouragement to perform self harm as well as containing other inappropriate content. WhatsApp is meant for users aged 16+ but young people often use Whatsapp in a way to stay in touch with groups of friends and family without the privacy features older people employ such as end to end encryption and the ability to block certain numbers. Meanwhile, as WhatsApp makes use of a phone number rather than an account, a child can be added, by using the phone number, to groups at any time. WhatsApp, alongside other social media apps can be effectively used when fully understood, but it can also be something that causes great harm, therefore education and support can be found [on the NSPCC website](#), as well as on the [Marden e-safety pages](#). If you have any concerns about your child's use of the internet and would like to speak to someone at school, do contact the Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

This week marks the end of our Spring Term, and the start of our Easter break. Easter is a Christian holiday observing the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we support members of our school community celebrating this holiday. According to Christian history, Jesus was crucified on a Friday (Good Friday) and rose again

three days later on Easter Sunday. Meanwhile, Eid al-Fitr, sometimes referred to as the Festival of Sweets, takes place during the second week of the holiday. During Eid, one of the most common things you'll hear people say to one another is "Eid Mubarak" This translates to "blessed Eid" and is a way of expressing celebration. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.

I would like to remind everyone about the wealth of information and rich resources that can be found on the [Subject Clouds on our school website](#). Curated by members of staff from each department in school, this area of the website is very useful for students of all ages - as well as their parents and carers - supporting them in a range of activities including revision, homework, careers research, or simply consolidating what has been learned in a particular lesson. For parents and carers this is a particularly good place to be able to quickly find out what their child is studying at different times of the year.

On Wednesday April 17th, Year 8 Parents/Carers will receive a DC2 report for their children. There will then be two events for parents to discuss their child's progress. On Thursday the 18th April Parents/Carers are invited to come in to look at their child's books on a drop in basis between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Mrs Stafford and SLT will be available to chat to in the LRC. Then on Tuesday 23rd April there will be a remote Parents' Evening where parents can book appointments with subject teachers. These appointments will be live from 4.00pm on Wednesday April 17th.

The Year 7 Netball girls were away at John Spence on Monday evening, to compete in the U12 North Tyneside Netball Tournament, against eight other schools. They were successful against St. Thomas More, Kings Priory and Marden Bridge Middle School in their pool, with 9-2, 7-0 and 7-1 wins, respectively. After winning their semi-final against Valley Gardens, they went on to play the final against John Spence. After a very competitive game, the Marden team finished runners up in the competition. Excellent teamwork was shown by all.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 8 boys football team played the quarter final of the North Tyneside schools cup away to George Stephenson High School. The Marden team settled into the game very quickly, scoring two goals in the opening 5 minutes. The hosts hit back before half time, scoring three times to take the advantage into the half time break. The Marden team came back at their opponents in the second half, scoring three more of their own before George Stephenson High managed to hit back to make the score 5-4 to Marden going into the final 5 minutes. Some stoic defending from the visitors kept the scoreline the same up to the final whistle. The boys were magnificent in their win and look forward to the semi final after the Easter break.

On Wednesday, it was the turn of the Year 7 girls football team as they played in the North Tyneside

7-a-side competition at Cochrane Park. Such is the strength in depth of the squad, Marden were able to enter two teams into this tournament. Both teams played excellent football and topped their respective groups moving into the semi finals. Both teams faced tough opposition in the semis With Marden 'A' playing John Spence and Marden 'B' playing Longbenton High. The 'A' team were defeated 2-0 in their game, with the 'B' team winning 1-0 and progressing to the final. The 'A' team played Longbenton in the 3rd place play off and managed to score the only goal of the game to claim 3rd spot. The 'B' team faced John Spence in the final and after a closely fought contest, the score remained 0-0 heading into the final minute. Marden never gave up hope and managed to score a superb winning goal in the dying seconds to take the title and move on to represent North Tyneside Schools in the County competition next term. A wonderful achievement for the team.

Year 10 students, soon to be the oldest students in the school, will have the opportunity to apply to be a prefect this coming term. Whilst there is an expectation that all students should be good role models, this expectation is heightened for those who will become prefects through the positive actions they take, from mentoring younger children to running lunchtime or sports clubs for other students. There will be details shared with students about the application process when we return for the summer term, and I am very much looking forward to reading the applications. From what I know of this year group, I expect they will be of a very high quality.

Thank you for your continued support, wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher